

8 February 1933.

2 NAVAL SERVICE ADMIRAL WILLIAM SHEPHERD BENSON,
UNITED STATES NAVY, RETIRED, DECEASED.

The late Admiral Benson was born at Macon, Georgia, on 26 September 1855, and was appointed a Cadet Midshipman on 23 September 1872 from the Fourth Congressional District of Georgia, by Honorable T. J. Spear. He was graduated in 1877.

Commander Benson reported for duty in command of the U.S.S. ALBANY in October 1908, and was assigned to duty as Chief of Staff, Pacific Fleet, in July 1909. He attained the permanent rank of Captain in July 1909, and commanded the battleship MISSOURI from May 1910 to October 1910, when he was ordered to duty as commanding officer of the U.S.S. UPAN. In August 1913 he reported for duty as Commandant, Navy Yard, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and as supervisor of Third, Fourth and Fifth Naval Districts. His duty as Chief of Naval Operations, Navy Department, Washington, D. C., with the rank of Rear Admiral, began in May 1915, and he attained the permanent rank of Rear Admiral from 26 November 1915. From 29 August 1916 he was commissioned Admiral, during the remainder of term of office as Chief of Naval Operations, and by reason of this assignment he was ranking senior Naval officer next to the Secretary and Assistant Secretary of the Navy. This duty terminated when he was transferred to the Retired List from 23 September 1919, after forty-seven years of active service, having attained the statutory age of sixty-four years. He was commissioned Admiral on the Retired List from 21 June 1930, in accordance with provisions of an Act of that date.

Admiral Benson was a member of the commission

appointed by John Leo Stack, Los Angeles, Calif.
Congressman John D. Linnell
Congressman Carl Vinson

Submitted and sponsored by Secretary Swanson, Feb. 10, 1937.

appointed by President Wilson to confer with the Allied Powers in Europe in 1917; member special mission abroad October 1918; Naval representative in drawing up Naval terms of Armistice with Germany and Central Powers; Naval advisor to American Commission to Negotiate Peace, and returned to the United States on 20 June 1919.

He was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, War Department, and also awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, Navy Department, for services during the World War, as set forth in the following citation:

"For exceptionally meritorious service in a duty of great responsibility as Chief of Naval Operations."

In addition he received foreign decorations as follows: Grand Cross Legion of Honor (French); Grand Cross Order St. Michael and St. George (British); Order Rising Sun, First Class (Japanese); Order St. Gregory Great (Military Class, First Order) by Pope Benedict XV.

He died on 20 May 1932 at Washington, D. C., and was buried at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia.

*Walter H. A. B. B. B.
2420 Tracy Place, N. W.
Washington, D. C.*

*John Louis Francis A. B. B. B.
Condy, 1st Rate*

*Condy (B. B. B. B.) B. B. B.
Condy, 1st Rate*

reply address not the signer of
letter, but Bureau of Navigation,
Navy Department, Washington, D. C.
Refer to No.

NAVY DEPARTMENT
BUREAU OF NAVIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Nav-327-NW

12 March 1935.

ADMIRAL WILLIAM SHEPHERD BENSON, U.S. NAVY, RETIRED, DECEASED.

Superlative reports on fitness.

Commanding Officer U.S.S. UTAH when that vessel attained
the highest multiple in engineering for the year ending
30 June 1913 and awarded engineering trophy.

As Commandant Philadelphia Navy Yard commended by Secretary
of Navy, 29 April 1914, for excellent work performed at Yard
during unusual circumstances of the previous fortnight.

Name submitted and sponsored by Secretary Swanson, Feb. 10, 1937.

September 24, 1919.

From: Secretary of the Navy.
To: Admiral W. S. Benson, U.S.N.,
Chief of Naval Operations,
Navy Department, Washington, D.C.

Subject:-Transfer to Retired List.

1. On September 23, 1919, you will have attained the statutory retirement age of sixty four (64) years, and will be transferred to the Retired List of Officers of the Navy from that date, in accordance with the provisions contained in the Act of Congress approved August 29, 1916.

2. On May 11, 1915, you entered upon your duties as the first Chief of Naval Operations, a new office created by Congress for the purpose of directing the operations of the Naval Forces, and the preparation of plans for their use in war.

3. On November 23, 1916, you were commissioned an admiral in the Navy which rank you have held since that date.

4. On April 6, 1917, the United States declared war against Germany, and until the armistice was signed on November 11, 1918, the United States Navy was largely responsible for the final and overwhelming defeat of the enemy. During the Peace Negotiations in Paris you were the principal Naval Advisor to the President of the United States, and in this duty your advice and counsel were of inestimable value.

5. For more than four years during the most momentous period in the history of the Navy, you have performed the duties of the most important office under the Navy Department with an efficiency and loyalty that commands the respect and admiration not only of the Navy but of the Nation.

6. I take this opportunity of expressing my deepest regret at the loss of your services, and wish you many happy years of rest after forty-seven years of active naval service.

/s/ Josephus Daniels.
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